



Angélica Infante-Green
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
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Enclosure 6a4
October 20, 2020

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TO: Members of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

FROM: Angélica Infante-Green, Commissioner *A. Infante*

RE: **Sheila "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy – Approval of Charter Renewal Recommendation**

Rhode Island General Law 16-77-5.1(b) designates the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education (the Council) as the authorizer for charter schools. In this capacity, the Council is responsible for charter school approval, renewal and revocation. RIDE is delegated with the authority and responsibility to manage a comprehensive system of charter school accountability, review, monitoring, and system management. With the support of RIDE's charter team, the Council plays a fundamental role in maintaining and advancing the quality and accountability of the charter sector.

RIDE has developed the charter performance framework that is based on Rhode Island's lessons learned and national best practice of charter school authorizing to inform charter renewal decisions. This process has brought clarity on each charter's performance annually, and ensure consistency of decisions that prioritize each school's academic performance.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education move to extend the charter of Sheila "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy, expiring at the end of school year 2022-23.

Enclosed Documents:

The following documents provide further detail regarding the Commissioner's recommendation and analysis contributing to that recommendation:

- Commissioner's Recommendation Overview: including an overview of the charter.
- Annual Performance Dashboards: containing detail on performance ratings for each school and each year of the charter's term.

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Sheila “Skip” Nowell Leadership Academy

Overview of Commissioner’s Charter Renewal Recommendation

Recommendation: 2-Year Extension

Charter Overview:

Current Charter Overview			
Charter Type	Independent	2018-19 Grades Served	9-12
School-Year Opened	2013-14	2018-19 Enrollment	155
Current Charter Term	2018/19 – 2020/18	Authorized Enrollment	160
Enrolling Communities	Statewide	Location(s)	Central Falls Providence

School Mission and Model	
School Mission:	“The mission of the Sheila C. “Skip” Nowell Leadership Academy is to ensure that Rhode Island’s pregnant, parenting and underserved youth graduate from high school with the knowledge and skills they need to be prepared for success in college, career and family life.”
School Model:	Sheila “Skip” Nowell (Nowell) is an independent-network charter, serving students statewide in grades 9-12 across two campuses, Providence and Central Falls. Currently, half of Nowell students identify as pregnant or parenting and ten percent of that group are raising more than one child. The schools opened in the 2013-14 school year in a partnership with the YWCA and are focused on providing a blended learning, flexible program that will enable pregnant/parenting teens to complete high school. Nowell uses a personalized learning platform coupled with wrap around services including childcare, family support and flexible transportation.

Overview of Charter Performance Ratings:

The following table depicts the charter’s performance according to the Charter Performance Review System. For more detail on performance ratings, please see the charter’s renewal report and annual performance dashboards.

Current Performance Ratings: Sheila Skip Nowell Leadership Academy (Capital)					
Indicators		SY16-17	SY17-18	SY18-19	SY19-20
Academic	(1A) School Performance	NR	NR	DNM	NA
	(1B) School Comparison	NR	NR	NR	NA
Sustainability	(1) Financial	M	M	M	M
	(2) Organizational	A	M	A	M
	(3) Compliance	M	M	M	TBD



Sheila “Skip” Nowell Leadership Academy

Overview of Commissioner’s Charter Renewal Recommendation

Recommendation: 2-Year Extension

Current Performance Ratings: Sheila Skip Nowell Leadership Academy (Central)					
Indicators		SY16-17	SY17-18	SY18-19	SY19-20
Academic	(1A) School Performance	NR	NR	DNM	NA
	(1B) School Comparison	NR	NR	NR	NA
Sustainability	(1) Financial	M	M	M	M
	(2) Organizational	A	A	A	M
	(3) Compliance	M	M	M	TBD

Ratings Key			
E	Exceeds Expectations	DNM	Does Not Meet Expectations
M	Meets Expectations	NR	Not Rated
A	Approaches Expectations	NA	Not Applicable